during the same period is Rs. 247.70 crores.

Impact of delayed Monsoon on Drinking Water and Agriculture Operation

704. SHRI SURESH KALWADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the delay in the onset of monsoon is causing worry in various States, particularly in northern India;

(b) if so, he details of the affected States and the prevailing water shortage and drought conditions as a result thereof;

(c) the measures being taken by Government to face this situation; and

(d) the impact of the situation on drinking water and agricultural operations during the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Due to erratic behaviour of the South-West monsoon this year, the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat; Tamil Nadu; U.P.; Madhya Pradesh and Union Territory of Pondicherry have reported drought conditions so far.

(c) The concerned State Governments take up the necessary steps to combat the situation arising out of the drought conditions as per established procedure. Government of India only supplement the tfforts of the State Government to tackle the situation effectively. Ministry of Agriculture has requested the State Governments to give highest priority to the provision of electricity and diesel to operate agriculture pump sets. A Special Conference was held on 28-7-1987 by Ministry of Agriculture to chalk out further course of action to make the best use of available moisture and to review the situation. It was decided that the State Governments would apply their contingency plan for sowing alternate short duration crops in areas affected by delayed rains.

(d) It is too early to assess the impact of the behaviour of the current monsoon on drinking water situation and agricultural operations.

Representation of Farmers in the ACPC

705. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have enlarged and restructured the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission for increasing its members from 4 to 7, so as to have 3 non-official members; and

(b) if so, whose representatives are these 3 non-official members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The appointment of Non-Official Members is under the consideration of the Government.

National Watershed Development Programme

706. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have sponsored a scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for rain-fed Agriculture, for development of dryland farming in the country; if so, the Statewise progress made so far under this scheme and the benefits derived by small and marginal farmers; specially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Yes, Sir. In order to supplement the

efforts of the States, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture has been launched from July 1986, for the remaining period of the 7th Five Year Plan in 16 States of the country. A sum of Rs. 1324.544 lakh was released to these States for covering an area of 95,865 hectares during 1986-87 as per details given below:—

S.No.	States	Works Programme (area in ha.)	Funds released (Rs. in lakh)
1	Andhra Pradesh	4,000	52·350
2	Assam . .	800	10·000
3	Bihar . .	4,000	20.000
4	Gujarat . .	..	..
5	Haryana . .	2.000	161·000
6	Himachal Pradesh	482	3·000
7	Karnataka .	28,654	371·959
8	Kerala . .	800	5·000
9	Madhya Pradesh	1.504	18.800
10	Maharashtra .	40,202	504·770
11	Orissa . .	198	3·170
12	Punjab . .	790	7·530
13	Rajasthan . .	2,369	29·610
14	Tamil Nadu .	1,000	23·380
15	Uttar Pradesh ..	8,702	110·2
16	West Bengal .	364	3·775

There is no separate provision for the small and marginal farmers as the work is undertaken on a water shed basis which may include farmers of all categories. However, States have been guided to select watersheds in such a way to include atleast 50 per cent of the small and marginal farmers to be covered within each watershed.

Rise in wholesale prices of items of daily consumption

707. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale prices of several items of daily consumption have sharply risen by 5.1 per cent in April-May, 1987;

(b) if so, the reasons for this abnormal rise in prices of items of daily consumption; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check this rising trend of prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) During April-May, 1987 the wholesale price indices of some items of daily consumption have gone up, some have declined or remained steady. There are a few items of daily consumption the wholesale price indices of which have increased by more than 5 per cent during April-May, 1987.

(b) The reasons for increase in the prices of some items of daily consumption are mainly the lean season